

## **Some notes from TOMSA board meeting Monday, October 21, 2013**

*There is no video recording of this meeting, only an audio recording. Sound quality is poor due to some board members speaking too softly. TOMSA does not have microphones in its conference room. If you have any questions about what was discussed, call TOMSA at 732-495-1010.*

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The public meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and ended at about 8:35 p.m. The following 6 board members were present: DeMarco (alternate, not voting), Rogers, Smith, Stokes (alternate, voting at this meeting), Wrede (vice chair), and Bouw (chair). Andrew Zapcic was absent. Also present were Richard Leahey (attorney), William Meyler (auditor), John VanDorpe (engineer), Raymond Nierstedt (director), and the recording secretary.

Review of minutes from the September public meeting was tabled until next month.  
The consent agenda was adopted 5-0.

**Engineer's report** - John VanDorpe discussed the status of a number of projects.

- Deepdale Drive manhole repair – TOMSA is waiting on DEP permit approval for additional work deemed to be needed.
- digester gas / co-gen project - Study of generator building underway, report expected to be ready next month. Letter to be sent to BPU to request extension of grant funding. There was discussion of possible federal funding available through the county. There was mention of some principle forgiveness of state monies (through EIT Trust) for this kind of project completed timely.
- AHHRSA force main project – No discussion.
- aerial crossing - authorized proceeding in next month or two. Survey to be done before snow.
- Main Street repair – on hold
- Pump station emergency facilities / susceptibility to flooding evaluations – Meeting with gas co. on 10/22 to review 5 pump stations, including Emory Drive.
- Emory Drive pump station force main – The Bamm Hollow developer is installing a new main.
- Emory Drive pump station improvements – Repairs to existing pipes are needed. Going out to bid in about 2 weeks.

**Medical Benefits Trust Fund (Res. 70/13)** – Adopted. This topic was discussed at the September board meeting. The amount \$50,000 will be moved from the general fund to this dedicated trust fund for unfunded post-retirement medical benefits. TOMSA is responsible for the cost of medical benefits for eligible retirees (not counting what is covered by Medicare). The annual cost has been funded on a pay-as-you-go basis. The trust fund is intended to supplement operating funds to pay this expense.

**Flood Revenue Trust Fund (Res. 71/13)** – Adopted. \$50,000 will be moved from the general fund to the flood revenue trust fund to help cover deductibles and risks not covered by FEMA.

**Director's Monthly Status Report** – Raymond Nierstedt reported:

- no lost time accidents in September 2013
- Year to date, revenue is 3% below budget, expenses are 22% below budget.
- FEMA assistance applications and reimbursements were discussed.
- Sandy repairs were discussed. Capital projects are proceeding according to priority. The bid amount for "Cadillac" flood barriers is \$330K, less for lesser-grade barriers.
- New computer backup system at one station
- 26 service calls, 12 blockages, 1 pump station call, 8 dig-ups in September. Dig-ups being done in "Sunken City" section of town, where there are a few more to do.

- They discussed the number of housing removed from TOMSA's revenue base due to Sandy -- 190 plus an additional 40 from Shoal Harbor.
- About \$90K is expected to be returned to AHRSA because there have been few or no capital projects this year.
- There are several defibrillators on premises.

**2014 Operating Budget Introduction (res. 72/13)** - Adopted. The 2014 budget is 3.3% increase in expenses over 2013. Per the director, part of putting together the budget was finding a home (line item) for a lot of things. The format of expense categories flows exactly into the budget sheets from the state. There was discussion of the discretionary transfer to the township – the transfer amount is up to 5% of appropriations or about \$370K. This amount is not in the budget because it is not a budgeted expense. It can be added later.

**Construction fund analysis** – The construction fund is the money set aside for capital projects. For each proposed project, the analysis takes into account the study cost and the cost of the project estimated at this point. The most active project now is the Emory Drive pump station improvement project. If they did all the projects on the list including the co-gen project, the cost would be \$5 million, putting them “\$3 million in the hole”, per the director. One project is roof repair / replacement, to be bid out in 2 weeks or so.

#### **Budget analysis through Aug. 31, 2013** – Little was said.

The board attorney discussed resolution of the disagreement with the owner of the affordable housing complex on Leonard Avenue with regard to the amount of the sewer connection fee.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Resident Bob Superti asked the following questions & got the following answers:

- Any other trust funds besides the two created by resolution at this meeting? *No.*
- Do you audio record your meetings? *No.*
- Does anyone take comprehensive minutes? *Yes* was the response. (However, this does not appear to be true because no one was taking notes during the meeting. The recording secretary, paid \$150 per meeting, lifted a pen only to record votes. That is the case at all meetings of the board.)
- Do you plan to fill the manager's position (vacant since 1/1/13)? *Yes, and they are reviewing candidates' qualifications.* No specifics or expected hire date was given.

Mr. Superti also stated that he agreed with the board with regard to the sewer connection charge for the Leonard Avenue complex, and disagreed only with how the owner/developer was addressed by the board at the last meeting.